Brian Masse
Member of Parliament
(Windsor West)

HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

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February 9, 2022

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Honourable Omar Alghabra
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Honourable Bill Blair
Minister of Emergency Preparedness
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Honourable Marco Mendicino
Minister of Public Safety
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Ministers,

I write to you today with urgency about the current state of affairs in the trade corridor of the Windsor region. As you are aware, this area is the most heavily used corridor for vehicular traffic to the United States, having crossings via the Ambassador Bridge, Windsor – Detroit Tunnel and the Windsor – Detroit Truck Ferry.

Traffic disruptions along the road corridor to the Ambassador Bridge are not uncommon and were part of the reasons I started in 1998 as a Windsor City Councillor to advocate for the development of a new border crossing. After decades of meetings, planning, investments we were able to win the new crossing known as the Gordie Howe Bridge. We further obtained improvements in infrastructure beyond EC Row, as this inter-connection highway was needed due to poor planning, and Provincial – Federal jurisdictional wrangling that resulted in the 401 ending without connecting to a crossing. However, recent events have become even

more precarious as demonstrations in Ottawa have escalated and now transferred to include traffic blocking this corridor beyond just demonstration activity.

Obviously this disruption has significant repercussions on the local, provincial and federal economies, but also is causing significant problems that now put the residents of my community in harms way with disruptions, noise, and most importantly, they are literally cut off from emergency services.

Furthermore, many industries did not prepare for this disruption and US elected officials have contacted me personally to inquire to the status of this area and Ottawa.

Please know that I appreciate the immediate contact with myself and local leaders including Mayor Dilkens. However, I want to stress the importance to listen and provide resources to the City of Windsor including additional federal resources. It is imperative that:

1. The Prime Minister meet with Mayor Dilkens as soon as possible
2. Provide resources for immediate policing needs as it is the Federal crossing causing these issues
3. Provide federal support services for the RCMP and other complimentary services for public order and safety
4. Use the Windsor-Detroit Truck Ferry to provide truck traffic redundancy
5. Begin and invest in a real Emergency Preparedness Plan for future disruptions
6. Help facilitate federal projects of investment to ensure law abiding citizens know and understand the Federal Government is at the forefront of positive improvements in their quality of life given the border causes cost, complications, stress and consequences on their quality of life

Time is of the essence, and the consequences of not taking action are dire. I look forward to working together with you to resolve this and please feel free to contact me at your convenience to ensure that we can work together to protect our residents and ensure that the flow of trade between Canada and the United States does not further jeopardize the flow of goods and damage our economy any further.

Yours truly,

Brian Masse MP
Windsor West

CC: Mayor Drew Dilkens, City of Windsor
Jagmeet Singh MP, NDP Leader
Irek Kusmierczyk MP (Windsor -Tecumseh)
Chris Lewis MP (Essex)